

Conspiracy in the Fields: The United Farm Workers and their battle with the Teamsters (KPFA, 1973)

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KPFA/B Special Bay Area Institute Report: The Struggle Between United Farm Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the role of the Nixon Administration in that conflict. The special is titled "Conspiracy in the Fields" by reporter Marty Gellen of the Bay Area Institute. Fred Ross (United Farm Workers organizer), Jim Hanson (Teamster's Union Representative, Salinas, CA) and Lowell Bergman (San Diego journalist) are interviewed in this special.

#Watergate #Nixon

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you're listening to kpfa and kpfb in berkeley listener sponsored radio for northern california our next program contains some frank language if this might distress you we suggest you rejoin us in about 45 minutes at the conclusion of this broadcast it's a special bay area institute report on the struggle between the united farm workers and the international brotherhood of teamsters and the role of the nixon administration in that conflict is called conspiracy in the fields in mid-april of this year when the united farm workers three-year contracts with grape growers had expired the international brotherhood of teamsters met secretly in palm springs without the knowledge or consent of any of the workers in the field negotiated new four-year agreements with about 15 growers in the coachella valley since then 75 of the grape growers in that area as well as around the bakersfield area have signed contracts with the teamsters this is only the latest in a whole series of efforts going back to the early 1960s to undermine the ufw but this latest effort is apparently the most serious attack yet against the union the united farm workers strongest membership base is among the 60 000 unionized grape field workers of the san joaquin and coachella valleys and that base is now in jeopardy [Applause] [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause] [Music]

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[Music] [Laughter] [Music] wow [Music] i am marty gellen from the bay area institute and this is a special bay area institute report of united farm workers teamsters battle we are going to look at what's at stake in that struggle but also examine the significance of this conflict for national politics [Music] today [Music] american agribusiness has resorted to every possible weapon short of massive fire power to rid itself of the united farm workers not only have the growers used the pentagon's enormous procurement system manipulated state legislatures and electoral procedures and brought the legal pressures of the courts to bear but they have enlisted the aid of the nation's largest and most powerful union as well the international brotherhood of teamsters the first time they made an effort to come in and bust our union was in 1966 fred ross united farm workers organizer the giant di giorgio corporation farms invited the teenagers to come in and participate in an election to find out the representation of the farm workers in those ranches there were two elections one we

were given only 24-hour notice of an election our members and our supporters boycotted that first election because it was in gross violation of good faith negotiations that had gone on so the governor brown called on ronald

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so the governor brown called on ronald halton from wayne state university to come out and investigate what occurred his findings concluded that there were some very unusual occurrences as far as the balloting and the whole election procedure he urged another another election so in august of 66 at the sierra vista ranch there was the first recognized election in farm labor history and the vote was uh official vote was something like 530 to 330 in favor of farmworkers union there was a another election at the jojo ranch about two months later but by then the teamsters had had backed off they didn't participate in the in the next election but at the same time in the same year 66 some the workers at the pirelli minetti ranch walked out on strike came to our union asked for support and behind the strike lines the teamsters signed the first of what would be many sweetheart agreements what is a sweetheart agreement well two things one an agreement that's signed between employer and union where the workers are not consulted at all and two and primarily because of this lack of communication between the workers and the union the terms of the agreement are very inferior whether it's wage working additions job security medical plan hiring hall so we had to boycott the products of preliminary for about eight months and finally there was the mediation and the they turned the contract over to us and it was the first of several jurisdictional agreements were signed at that time where the farmworkers union agreed not to go into the canneries packing sheds or the truckers and the teamsters respected our right to organize all field workers so we had relative peace for three years from 67 until

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from 67 until 70 we finally won the great boycott and a great strike and as soon as we had won in delano almost simultaneously we heard news from the salinas valley that the teenagers had signed about 170 sweetheart agreements with the lettuce industry do the teamsters want why do they time and time again violate the jurisdictional agreements which they have signed with the ufw and try to push the ufw out of the fields there are several reasons but the most important among them are intra-union politics and money there are several things involved one we believe is a personal ambition on the part of william grammy who's the director of organizing for the teamsters i think he would like to be somebody the head of the teamsters internationally this is one major stepping stone if you can stop chavez in the pharmacy movement the other is the question of their canneries they're very weak in the canneries they have contracts there but the membership especially the minority membership black and brown is unhappy with the way the teachers are operating the teams want to have control of the field so they can be assured no strikes so that their membership mechanics can have steady work without having to worry about work stoppages and strikes in the fields the other thing is that they they know that mechanization is on its way in agriculture so they're hoping to be able to take control of that there is money involved in that if they take a dive for example on when and how machines are introduced one the growers will pay the teamsters and two the workers will be the ones to suffer they don't have a strong union there to back them up to to fight for against that issue then it's going to come overnight and the workers will be happening but what happened to workers here will happen same thing that occurred to

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happen same thing that occurred to the cotton workers in texas 25 30 years ago overnight they were without jobs it wasn't because of the union it was because machines were introduced and they had no protection the issue of automation is strategic anticipating an end to an era of cheap labor growers have been racing to mechanize before they are forced to operate under the restrictions of union contracts the united states department of agriculture has predicted that between 1968 and 1975 more than 800 000 jobs in agriculture will be destroyed by automation currently federal job training and placement programs for rural workers are ineffective and underfunded one objective of the ufw has been to deal with these problems so that farm

workers aren't just thrown out into the garbage dump of the big city ghettos but if they can't stop unionization then growers obviously would prefer a union they know will be amenable to their views and the needs of businessmen we know that one of the reasons the teachers are preferred by the growers is because they know they can make any number of deals under the table that you and i will probably never find out about but because they're both called businessmen they can get along in any number of ways their first contract they were signed was with the company called blood antle 1961 this was a large lettuce producer who was in debt time bad financial need he borrowed a million dollars from the teenagers at the same time they signed a contract the teachers ensured him that he could continue to use brass arrows they backed the bracero program the government program in the early 60s and 50s where mexicans were brought across the border like almost like slaves up until the beginning of 1973

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slaves up until the beginning of 1973 it appeared as if the united farm workers were winning the race against the machines upon its grape victory in 1970 the ufw went out to organize the lettuce melon and citrus workers in california and arizona and the citrus and vegetable workers in florida one hundred and seventy thousand seasonal and migrant workers tend the fields of florida almost sixty percent are black and thirty percent chicano and puerto rican the campaign in florida is a test of the union's ability to appeal to farm laborers outside of the chicano and filipino rank and file it's successfully organized in california this is a critical test if the union is to eventually move into a national position of leadership among farm workers the ufw's first target in florida was minute maid a subsidiary of coca-cola koch knuckled under to the union after threats of a national boycott next the union laid attack to the sugar plantations of florida on the ufw list were other citrus farms owned by large national corporations like craft company nestle's royal crown cola and likes brothers so it appeared in 1972 as if the farm labor struggle was being nationalized not only was the ufw carrying their struggle outside of california to the other big farm states of florida arizona and texas but the growers organized nationally to stop them by launching lobbying campaigns in over 20 key agricultural states for legislation that would ban the secondary boycott and strikes at harvest time the law passed by the arizona state legislature last year which made it illegal to say the words boycott lettuce was just one example of their lobbying effort proposition 22 in california was another but with the exception of arizona

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exception of arizona the lobbying campaign has so far proved unsuccessful more drastic measures were needed the growers had to stop the ufw at any cost yeah we think that what's happening is that there's an overall plan to try and destroy our union and i'd point to two things one the uh the grape contracts we've had contracts the last three years with all those coachella valley growers and less than 12 hours after the contract expired the growers and teamsters had a joint press conference to announce that they had reached contract agreements and then just two weeks or 10 days ago bob gallo of gallo wines announced that the teamsters i told him they represented the majority of his workers and he was entering serious negotiations with him well this is very unusual we've had a good relations with that grower for the last seven years contact's been good and everything else and all of a sudden overnight you know they decided that all the teams were representing workers but nobody's talking about an election no one has agreed to have an election so if they were serious about that issue they would have any problem with with uh submitting to an election so i think it's it's more than just a coincidence that these things are happening uh the lamonde arvin growers the next grape growing area near bakersfield signed up all teamsters and now the big question is whether the delano bunch uh jamar and the other growers who held out for so long whether or not they will go teamstream but i think it's uh it is a plan i would say the teamsters union certainly can't be accused of attempting to destroy the ufw jim hansen teamsters union representative salinas california that's a task which the ufw is handling quite well as well the fact is that if the ufw had done the

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the fact is that if the ufw had done the proper job during the past three years when i represented the workers we wouldn't be representing the people today back in february 4 200 people out of the sitting season workforce of 5 000 at that time signed petitions asking us to represent them they were dissatisfied with the ufw for a number of reasons primarily the hiring hall practices which they felt were discriminatory it was after hearing these statements and after talking with the people receiving the petitions that we began to argue if there is any conspiracy it uh is within the fw because i think that the ufw has conspired to the harvest of the grapes in california by using demonstrators imported from other areas and moved freely throughout the state the workers aren't on strike they are harvesting the crops so in truth there is no strike only massive demonstrations of people who were not working in the fields before is there a conspiracy afoot to crush the united farm workers since this is the year when conspiracies end and begin in the white house perhaps it is there we must look to find the answer there are indications one next on record uh 25 years ago or a little longer he helped set up his own career as a congressman by participating in red baiting committee hearings up in the delano area in bakersfield the first the georgia strike his attitude in 1968 eating grapes publicly in the middle of our boycott making the untrue statement the boycott was illegal when he knew very well as a lawyer that it was perfectly legal for former christian boycott it's our understanding that a high administration official urged frankly timmins to come speak to the american farm bureau convention

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farm bureau convention in december and he proposed an alliance with with the farm bureau the most right-wing reactionary farm group in the country and what's happened ever since then is that the teamsters have been signing up contract after contract uh mainly with growers with whom we had contracts before and then they renegotiated the contracts the lettuce industry riding high on the wave of his november 1972 election victory richard nixon held a meeting in san clemente with frank fitzsimmons and several white house aides what transpired at that meeting was never made public but less than a week later on december 12 1972 fitzsimmons went to los angeles to address the american farm bureau federation which was holding its annual convention the american farm bureau federation is not only a lobbying organization for the nation's farmers it is also a wide-ranging empire with sales and assets as large as those of shell oils it does a four billion dollar business in life insurance mutual funds oil fertilizers and real estate every year its members include the bank of america kern county land company hunts foods foremost dairies del monte the giorgio corporation teneco and safeway it is considered to be one of the most conservative trade organizations in the entire world fitzsimmons opened his speech to the farm bureau with a rather cryptic allusion to his real purposes at the expense of sounding like a poker player who wants a stacked deck before he ante's up fitzsimmons began let me say that i am happy to be with you here today he then urged the farm bureau members to change their outmoded views and accept unionization of farm workers

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and accept unionization of farm workers however he denounced the ufw describing it as a revolutionary movement that is perpetuating a fraud on the american public finally fitzsimmons proposed an alliance between the teamsters and the farm bureau we in organized labor he proclaimed welcome an alliance with farmers especially when that alliance works for the mutual benefit of the farm workers and his employers immediately after this speech the teamsters renegotiated their unexpired sweetheart contracts with lettuce growers in salinas and in april the sweetheart contracts with grape growers were signed one other person who attended the san clemente meeting in early december was a man named charles coulson charles colston who was formerly the nixon chief counsel or one of his main councils and who has been called the architect of nixon's labor plan and of course with simmons endorser synonym anywhere from four to six hundred thousand dollars was raised by the teamsters for the nixon campaign fund this coupled with the fact that that coulson is now the chief counsel for the teamsters union leads us to believe that there's more than a casual relationship there and the hatred of the teenagers for our union and nixon strong opposition that passed we think there's a definite conspiracy going on [Music] charles colson was richard nixon's coordinator

of appointments he made sure the right people were appointed to the right positions in simple language he was the key man who made sure that business dominated government was also nixon's dirty tricks man in this capacity he brought e howard hunt into the white house staff and is alleged to have personally

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and is alleged to have personally ordered the fake state department cables in 1971 linking the kennedy administration with the dm assassination in south vietnam in 1963. in addition he engineered the phone calls telegrams and newspaper ads which nixon pointed to in 1970 as tokens of support for his cambodian invasion finally coulson was responsible for composing and keeping the famous white house enemies list the existence of which john dean revealed during watergate testimony two weeks ago as fred ross has pointed out colson was also the architect of nixon's labor policies during 1971 and 1972. it was colson who first proposed that nixon commute the prison sentence of jimmy hoffa in 71. it was also colson who solicited fitsimmons for the large campaign contributions which the teamster union officials gave to nixon's 1972 election extravaganza coincidentally just after that december meeting following the november election and three days before fitsimmons spoke to the american farm bureau federation the teamsters announced that they had decided to switch their legal business from the firm of williams connolly and califano a washington law firm with strong democratic party ties to maureen dickstein shapiro and galligan a washington law firm with strong republican party ties two senior members of williams connolly in califano were at that time handling the civil suit which the democratic party had brought against leading republican party figures for the watergate break-in but more significant was the fact made public that day that coulson would join maureen dickstein shapiro and galligan in march after he resigned from his position on the

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he resigned from his position on the white house staff charles coulson who was one of nixon's closest political confidants and a strong nixon loyalist would now also be the chief counsel for frankfurt simmons and the teamsters union most washington observers agreed that this reflected the close political ties which have developed between nixon and the teamsters was the plan to crush the farm workers laid out at the san clemente meeting in early december last year was charles coulson's appointment as teamster council part of that deal is there a conspiracy afoot to crush the ufw we cannot indicate a real answer to these questions but we do not have all the evidence however it is important to note that in situations like these the president may not only be acting out of general policy considerations like keeping unions out of agriculture and isolating militant labor organizations but also acting in the interests of his closest friends one such friend was william d pauley an old member of the china lobby one of the founders of the flying tiger airlines and owner of the talisman sugar company in florida which has been struck by the ufw for over a year now another close friend perhaps the closest after bibi raboso is c arnold smith president of the u.s national bank in san diego and one of the largest land holders in the central valley of california is westgate california corporation lowell bergman journalist san diego which is a conglomerate he put together with his former shoeshine boy john alicio in the early 60s uh owns a number of land syndicates directly these land syndicates are uh tax dodgers in the in the san joaquin valley that were set up

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valley that were set up to both collect subsidies and or to show a loss so that they could write off tax money on these land holdings but uh indirectly if you want to call it that smith is the largest single personal land holder in in the san joaquin valley uh for instance well the major the major instance in this case is through a man named hollis roberts in 1965 hollis robert's net value was put at 40 000 and he looked like he was very close to bankruptcy he couldn't get credit anywhere for his uh his uh his land operation which is called roberts farms in 1968 hollis roberts that in assessed value was somewhere close to 125 million dollars with 130 000 acres of land he was appointed in 1968 by richard nixon as an advisor on agricultural policy and the transformation of hollis roberts from near bankruptcy to economic vigor we want to call it that even though no no other bank than one bank would give him a loan that one bank being the us national bank controlled by

smith took place because well in a pattern that smith has followed before that is to pick up someone who is close to bankruptcy and use them as a front for his operations and so through uh roberts roberts farms jasmine groves walnut groves and so on various syndicates smith has become a major land operator and is presently his fault he can i think he employs uh the moment 2500 farm workers in kern county in the coachella valley and they have widespread interests throughout the san joaquin valley

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joaquin valley but see arnold smith is much more through his conglomerate westgate corporation smith has a virtual monopoly on ground support transportation for airports and on helicopter service throughout california nevada arizona new mexico and other sections of the western united states he also owns trucking companies several shuttle bus systems and a number of cab companies but see arnold smith represents much more than even this for he is a key financial agent and close ally of the teamsters union if you talk about senior old smith you have to talk about san diego san diego county and san diego city of san diego and what's happened in san diego is that the place has grown phenomenally in the last 25 30 years since the second world war smith who is one of them through his united states national bank and the westgate california corporation is the dominant uh financier in the area he's been called mr san diego of the century by the local newspapers and others in the city one of the major sources of suburban and upper class vacation resorts in san diego is not just a bank but the teamsters pension fund the fund the central and south with west states pension fund which various riders and investigators have also called a treasure chest for organized crime i should point out i guess as a like a footnote that the teamsters pension fund the nature of their investments the reason why they're always been suspect so most pension funds uh for instance the western conference pension plan under the teamsters which is separate from the central states fund we're talking about and somewhat smaller has their fund administered through

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has their fund administered through stodgy insurance executives and prudential life insurance company a pension fund is supposed to be administered in a very conservative fashion so that it doesn't get blown in an investment gambled away essentially hoffa introduced the policy of using a pension fund for his personal interest for his own desire for power and it's that pattern that suspect you know it's that gambling um aspect of it that has made the pension fund suspect and then and even make it more ironic it's that the fund itself has been used to finance organized gambling in the united states and internationally and in cuba and in the bahamas usually when you see a teamsters pension fund back in active in an area the central states fund you can also find members of people who have been identified as leaders of organized crime in the area now the interest that cyril smith would have in this would you say at first would be circumstantial he just happens to live in the same town however uh there have been various people inside the bank and elsewhere who have said that to me in interviews and others that other forms that the bank the united states national bank handles pension fund loans and distribution now there is a present no piece of paper document loan form that you can point to or grab a hold of to say that this is what's been going on that there have been uh finders fees paid to the bank or members of the bank for investments that they have found for the fund um that there have been kickbacks for instance although there's a quite especially right now there are quite a few rumors about it and investigations going on trying to find out the bank itself

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out the bank itself even according to the wall street journal is one of the most adept in the country at hiding its assets and how it operates smith has maintained uh maintained until three years ago until he was first at first exposed in san diego county absolute control over the county and because of that kind of control that he had a very right-wing uh patriotic front um he he provided a uh a base or no uh well an investment opportunity for people like the teamsters pension fund so you find anywhere estimates vary from 250 million to 350 million dollars or maybe even more of teams for pension fund money in san diego county operating not in developing low-cost housing or not in developing public works for the people of san diego or for the

workers themselves building a hospital or whatever you find it in places like rancho lacosta maybe following the the watergate hearings and john dean mentioned that he and h.r haldeman and erlichmann and various other people would get together at rancho lacosta and they would talk about uh oh uh who to put on the enemies list i don't know whatever they were the cover-up of the of the watergate burglary sometimes you hear about rachel acosta if you open up yesterday's uh san francisco chronicle on july 2nd and you'll see a big spread and it says luxury war on fat and they list an all whole list of movie stars um tv personalities johnny carson jack women or desire niz carol burnett who go to this place called rancho lacoste which is a health spa rancho acosta is i think is about 30

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rancho acosta is i think is about 30 miles from san clemente south san francisco county and it was formed as a land uh development operation in uh i believe in 1964. there are houses on you know large plush mansion type houses and condominiums and so on on this uh spread it has a hell spa motel in the middle of it and the golf course and where there's varied you know national pro golf tournaments and so on and it ranks in amongst its organizers as a corporation um uh mo dalits for 50 years the now i guess emeritus head of the cleveland syndicate uh one of the major operators in the building of las vegas with teamster pension fund money in las vegas and as it turns out in rancho lacosta 75 million dollars in teamster pension fund money uh dallas is an old friend of mine lansky's daiwitz was very close to jimmy hoffa when hoffa was first starting out in the teamsters and that's been outlined in hank messick's books on the team streets [Music] uh or just south of rancho lacoste i mean this is part of a whole series of developments that these people have done in in san diego and they have rancho lacoste in another place called rancho los penasquitos and so on or another man who lives at regular cost his name is leonard burstin who was a good friend of fulgencio batistas and has other progressive ties he was involved in [Music] developments and teamster pension fund activities around miami beach and key biscayne and so on who was a resident of rancho lacosta mr burson i believe just got out of jail uh after serving four months on a 40 million dollar case involving a pension fund right now and so you see the use of the teamsters pension fund and essentially see arnold

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pension fund and essentially see arnold smith's country you know his area of the country what he controls richard nixon's favorite city san diego in in this fashion you know in development of high society health spas they can't open a casino they would like to i'm sure see arnold smith and richard nixon are the best of friends the relationship goes back a long way throughout the years smith has been one of nixon's most loyal and most generous supporters nixon in his turn has never let such loyalty go unrewarded and also if you talk about see arnold smith and the teamsters is a relationship a social relationship a political relationship and a financial relationship you also have to talk about richard nixon because smith also has that same relationship with nixon and has had that relationship since 1946. smith was always proud of saying that he was one of uh nixon's earliest backers back in 1946 he can't get much earlier politically and with nixon and to his surprise i guess into nixon's surprise nixon skyrocketed right as a as a political investment in their 40s and wound up being vice president in 1952 um and smith and nixon have enjoyed like a personal relationship with the families and so on uh for 25 years uh in 1968 for instance uh smith watched the election returns with nixon and we were in los angeles they were watching smith was the first one on the receiving line at the inaugural wall in 1968 with his wife helen alvarez his second wife and um smith it's estimated he raised anywhere from three to five million dollars in 1968

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three to five million dollars in 1968 alone in april of 1970 there was a grand jury indictment pending in san diego where the mayor and the city council were indicted and there was a federal grand jury indictment pending in san diego for tax evasion and for many months it was unclear whether these indictments would all come out [Music] and they did well they didn't they didn't i shouldn't i shouldn't say they all did they did because information was leaked to various underground papers and other people who printed it what

happened was in april 1970 that smith got on an airplane when he knew that he couldn't hold these indictments that much longer he got on an airplane and he went to washington and he went to see his friend in the white house smith's own president of the yellow cab company in san diego has testified to that fact before a grand jury smith himself denies it so it's his word against the others and the pertinent manifest and the airline is missing but it's pretty clear that smith did make this trip because the document does exist that john dean iii then was right began writing letters to various law enforcement officials in san diego denying federal cooperation and allowing very an irs agent testify if you're following the watgate the uh dean was involved in this and also uh jack caulfield and the guy who testified at the beginning of the year in super court was involved in this particular deal nixon and the teamsters are the best of

[00:38:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVqrLQ&t=2280s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVqrLQ&t=2280s)

nixon and the teamsters are the best of friends also such a chummy relationship of course includes a lot of other mutual friends too numerous to speak of his connections to the teamsters are well known he has said many times that that frank fitzsimmons is always welcome in the white house he's said many times that that the interests of the teamsters unions are his interest and at the same time you know he doesn't feel any uh need to mention that uh the teamsters pension fund controlled by mr consummons informally by ahafa are the major source of funds for organized crime investment in the united states and they built most of las vegas tank messick has pointed out and they um are deeply involved in land deals throughout the southern half of the united states right it's no secret i mean that's what you know robert kennedy was always talking about and uh lots of people have written about it you know talked about it and nixon seems to figure it's fine i was just looking at this magazine in overdrive magazine having to do with like lacosta the famous incident where fitzsimmons is talking to people like lou or anthony ricardo or marcia kyfano various people who have been involved in gambling and resort development and identified enormous members of some kind of organized crime apparatus in the united states and there they are sitting with frankfurt simmons and fitzsimmons gets on the airplane with uh nixon you know the same day although we can just barely piece together the whole scenario it does seem as if a plan to crush the united farm workers

[00:40:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVqrLQ&t=2402s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVqrLQ&t=2402s)

united farm workers was part of the wave of domestic reaction which emanated from the white house just following richard nixon's election victory in november of 1972 as attorney general john mitchell once predicted this country is going to go so far to the right you won't even know it the oeo was dismantled without legal authority and federal social spending was slashed nixon began restructuring the office of the presidency and centralizing power way before the basic legislation for the reorganization had been sent to congress housing programs were stopped by executive mandate and strong anti-labor legislation was being prepared by the president special white house controls on news and the media were also under consideration nixon's power block conservative interests was coming into its own i mean nixon is part of a group of people you know a power block some people describe it as an alliance of organized crime and right-wing financiers and corrupt politicians and uh various agencies of the government i mean uh wings of the cia and so on for instance uh using through a man like c arnold smith as his close friend nixon also controls the uh the attorney general of california evil younger whose major financial contributor was see arnold smith now younger has a lot of jurisdiction in terms of what's going on now with the farm workers and i haven't heard the farmworkers talking about younger's fairness and he has a whole bureau of investigation in sacramento called cii right under him right this is a sort of mini fbi for california i haven't heard of them being very

[00:42:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVqrLQ&t=2520s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVqrLQ&t=2520s)

i haven't heard of them being very active in terms of investigating what the teamsters are doing to the farm workers or even vice versa there has been no to my knowledge anyway there has been no investigation by the national labor relations board or anyone into collusion kickbacks or otherwise of the teamsters and the growers in terms of edging out the farm workers the farm workers you know are known as a union that struggles right they carry picket signs and if you can take john dean's testimony as to what nixon thinks of

people who carry pickets and especially pick at him but we're opposed to him then you can get some idea i think of the way nixon views the foreign workers [Music] there's political enemies for sure and they're the economic enemies of his friends and it's these also these interests that we're talking about who are opposed to groups like the farm workers who are responsible for what we have been people have been calling over the last couple of years the domestic reaction in the united states the quieting down of social protests the increased repression um the law enforcement administ assistance administration and the money that it's been dealing out in billions of dollars now every year to increase police surveillance and armament and so on the watergate investigations seem to have temporarily halted this shift towards the right but many of the wheels set in motion last november are still churning away the federal budget for fiscal 1974 which went into effect on july 1st has still yet to be felt in its full impact but most visibly of all the united farm workers are still battling the teamsters in the coachella and san joaquin valleys of california that struggle has yet to be played out to its conclusion here in the bay area a strong rank and file group has done a variety of things

[00:44:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVgrLQ&t=2641s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVgrLQ&t=2641s)

file group has done a variety of things they belief-hooded truckers and plants they picketed identifying themselves as teamsters at safeway stores urging people to to join the boycott of safeway to support the farm workers to oppose the policies of the simmons they've sent delegations down to the strike areas to show solidarity with farmworkers these are some of the things that they've done we're very supporters especially in the labor movement the community supporters are invited to caravan on july 21st to delano we need we need people's help on the boycott lines safe ways the biggest buyer of grapes and lettuce we need to kick their ass and safeway is uh they are the growers one of the big board of directors uh we have a strike going against him he's a grape grower j.g boswell he's been on the government welfare program for the last five years received 20 million dollars in subsidies and so we know that they they moved this thing will be over very shortly because they can get both they have enough influence both the teachers and the growers to get our peaceful resolution through this their ad was just a pr stunt they've had an ad urging elections in the fields full page added about 68 newspapers in california uh but they have nothing they've done nothing so far to back that up so our lines are bigger lines that safeway becomes more important we need people's time and any way they can help us we appreciate it the farm workers you know are known as a a union of struggles right they carry picket signs and if you can take john dean's testimony as to what nixon thinks of people who carry pickets and especially pick at him but we're opposed to him and you can get some idea i think of the way nixon views the foreign workers there's political enemies for sure and they're the economic enemies of his [Music] friends

[00:46:04 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVgrLQ&t=2764s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFP-WQVgrLQ&t=2764s)

[Music] god [Music] [Applause] singing away [Music] miracles the struggle goes on you

END